

CLAIMS

1. A portable device comprising:

unauthorized separation detection means arranged to detect the unauthorized separation of the portable device from a person; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device in response to the unauthorized separation of the portable device and person, wherein the unauthorized separation detection means are means for detecting the release of a releasable connector connecting the portable device to the person.

2. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the releasable connector comprises a strap.

3. A portable device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the releasable connector is released by severance.

4. A portable device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the unauthorized separation detection means detects the interruption of a closed conductive path via the releasable connector.

5. A portable device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the portable device comprises a cellular radio transceiver.

6. A portable device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by controlling the cellular radio transceiver to transmit a disable message.

7. A portable device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the portable device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by sending a disabling message to the network for disabling normal operation of the telephone in the network.

8. A cellular telephone network comprising a portable device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the mobile telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, and the network is

responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network and/or to disable the handset from normal use in the network.

9. A portable device having a radio transmitter, comprising:

a releasable connector arranged to connect the portable device to a person and arranged to release the connection of the portable device to the person if the device is grabbed while connected to the person; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device in response to the release of the releasable connector.

10. A portable device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the releasable connector comprises a strap.

11. A portable device as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the releasable connector is released by severance.

12. A portable device as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the unauthorized separation detection means detects the interruption of a closed conductive path via the releasable connector.

13. A portable device as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the control means is arranged to control the radio transmitter to send a message in response to the release of the releasable connector.

14. A portable device as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the control means is arranged to control the radio transmitter to send a disabling message to the network for disabling normal operation of the telephone in the network.

15. A cellular telephone network comprising a portable device as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mobile telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, and the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network and/or to disable the handset from normal use in the

network.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, wherein the control means is arranged to lock the handset to the card, in response to the release of the releasable connector, so that the handset can be used normally as a telephone only in conjunction with the card which is present in the handset when the telephone is grabbed.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the control means is additionally arranged to send a disabling message to the network for disabling the card so that it can no longer enable a handset to operate normally as a telephone in the network.

18. A cellular telephone network comprising a device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network.

19. A cellular mobile telephone, for operation in a cellular communications network, comprising:

a releasable connector arranged to connect the mobile telephone to a person and arranged to release the connection of the mobile telephone to the person if the device is grabbed while connected to the person; and

control means arranged to send a disabling message to the network in response to the release of the releasable connector.

20. A cellular telephone network comprising a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 19 wherein the mobile telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, and the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network and/or to disable the handset from normal use in the network.

21. A cellular mobile telephone comprising a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 19 comprising a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, wherein the control means is arranged to lock the handset to

the card, in response to the release of the releasable connector, so that the handset can be used normally as a telephone only in conjunction with the card which is present in the handset when the telephone is grabbed.

22. A cellular telephone network comprising a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 21 wherein the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network.

23. A portable device comprising:

unauthorized separation detection means arranged to detect the unauthorized separation of the portable device from a counterpart device worn by a person; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device in response to the unauthorized separation of the portable device and counterpart, wherein the portable device and the counterpart device are arranged to form a wireless couple, the diminution of which is detectable by the unauthorized separation detection means.

24. A portable device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the portable device comprises a cellular radio transceiver.

25. A portable device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by controlling the cellular radio transceiver to transmit a disable message.

26. A portable device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the portable device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by sending a disabling message to the network for disabling normal operation of the telephone in the network.

27. A cellular telephone network comprising a portable device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the mobile telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, and the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network and/or to disable the handset from normal use in the network.

28. A portable device wearable by a person comprising:

unauthorized separation detection means arranged to detect the unauthorized separation of the portable device from a counterpart device; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the counterpart device in response to the unauthorized separation of the portable device and counterpart, wherein the portable device and the counterpart device are arranged to form a wireless couple, the diminution of which is detectable by the unauthorized separation detection means.

29. A portable device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the counterpart device comprises a cellular radio transceiver or mobile telephone.

30. A portable device comprising:

unauthorized separation detection means arranged to detect the unauthorized separation of the portable device from a counterpart; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of one of the portable device and the counterpart in response to the unauthorized separation of the portable device and counterpart, wherein the portable device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by sending a disabling message to the network for disabling normal operation of the telephone in the network.

31. A cellular telephone network comprising a portable device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the mobile telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, and the network is responsive to the disabling message sent by the mobile telephone to disable the card from normal use in the network and/or to disable the handset from normal use in the network.

32. A portable device comprising:

unauthorized separation detection means arranged to detect the unauthorized separation of the portable device from a counterpart; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of one of the portable device and the counterpart in response to the unauthorized separation of the

portable device and counterpart, wherein the device is or comprises a cellular mobile telephone for operation in a cellular communications network and the telephone comprises a handset and a replaceable card, which enables the handset to operate as a telephone in the network, wherein the control means is arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the portable device by locking the handset to the card so that the handset can be used normally as a telephone only in conjunction with the card which is present in the handset at the time of locking.

33. A portable device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the Figures.

34. A mobile telephone substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the Figures.

35. A cellular radio communications network substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the Figures.

36. A portable device having a radio transmitter, comprising:

unauthorized removal means arranged to detect the unauthorized removal of the device from a person porting the device; and

control means arranged to effect at least partial disablement of the device in response to the unauthorized removal of the device.